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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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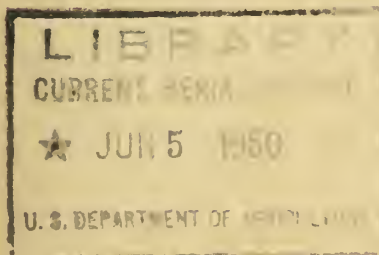
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.



L A T E N E W S

The Canadian Government's support price for first-grade creamery butter was reduced on May 1, 1950 to 53 cents from 58 cents per pound in carlots which had prevailed since May 1, 1948. This reduction was due to relatively large accumulations of butter stocks. The Government also has decided to sell from its stocks at 53 cents per pound delivered in Ontario and Quebec. The Government began requisitioning cheese in an effort to fill the maximum quantity stipulated in the 1950 United Kingdom contract for 85,000,000 pounds. The 1949 contract of 50,000,000 pounds was not fulfilled.

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The Swiss Government has reduced the subsidy to producers of fluid milk from 3 cents to 1 cent per quart without reducing the prices paid to dairymen. This will necessitate raising prices to consumers effective May 1. Prior to May 1, retail prices were about 10 cents per quart for raw milk and 19 cents per quart for pasteurized milk.

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The Mexican semi-government agency CEIMSA, in charge of regulating supplies of basic foodstuffs, announced recently that as of June 1, 1950, imports of wheat will be returned to private trade. A certain measure of control, however, will be retained by that agency since applications must be made to it for permits to import. This control on the part of CEIMSA was reported to be for the purpose of insuring an equitable distribution of wheat imports among the various mills. Private importers will be granted the same exemptions from import duties as were allowed to CEIMSA.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD MEAT PRODUCTION UP 5 PERCENT

Meat production in the principal livestock countries of the world in 1949, exclusive of the Far East, is estimated at about 68.3 billion pounds in a preliminary report by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is a gain of about 3.5 billion pounds or 5 percent above the 1948 production. It also places the 1949 output slightly above the 1934-38 average. The 1949 meat production is one of the largest, if not the largest, on record.

The increase in meat production on all continents, except in the Middle East and South America, is attributed to an improved grazing and feed grain situation, as well as to the larger number of livestock on farms. The much improved feed situations in 1948 and 1949, together with the relatively high prices for meat, encouraged livestock producers to market animals even while building up herds. Increases on the various continents ranged from 1 to 14 percent, with the largest gains being made in those countries where production was the lowest in relation to the prewar output. When compared with prewar, meat production on all continents, except Europe and the Soviet Union, is 6 to 45 percent above the 1934-38 level.

Based on a favorable feed position in many parts of the world, the larger number of livestock on farms and fairly high prices for meat, the outlook for an increase in 1950 meat production appears favorable. If weather conditions become unfavorable, the increase is likely to be large because of forced marketings, but should weather conditions be favorable, more normal marketings and a smaller increase would result. The largest increase again can be expected to occur in Europe and the Soviet Union. It is also likely that both the 1949 and prewar production levels will be exceeded in 1950.

Notwithstanding relatively heavy postwar slaughtering of cattle in the United States and some increase in breeding stock during the past year, the 1949 output of meat was slightly larger than that of 1948 and exceeded the 1934-38 average by 35 percent. Plentiful feed supplies and a favorable relationship between feed and livestock prices have encouraged producers to increase hog production and to feed cattle to heavier weights. In Canada, meat production dropped 4 percent below a year earlier, but still continues 37 percent above the 1934-38 average. Large exports of live cattle to the United States and competition from other farm enterprises have reduced herds and curtailed livestock production. Cuban and Mexican production declined in 1949, but both countries are considerably above the prewar levels.

Greater availability of feed supplies in Europe during 1948 and 1949 enabled farmers to increase their livestock numbers. Consequently, European meat production in 1949 increased about 13 percent over a year earlier. Current estimates, however, are only about 80 percent of

MEAT 1/ Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, and total meats in specified countries in 1949, with comparisons

Country	Beef and Veal			Pork (excluding lard)			Mutton and Lamb			Total 2/	
	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948	1949	Average 1934-38	1948
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA											
Canada 3/	735:	1,034:	991:	621:	941:	910:	61:	48:	44:	1,417:	2,023:
Mexico.....	492:	794:	747:	167:	242:	225:	14:	24:	20:	698:	1,020:
United States 3/	7,974:	10,602:	10,862:	7,337:	10,241:	10,412:	871:	753:	605:	16,182:	21,879:
Cuba 4/	269:	370:	370:	38:	45:	37:	2:	2:	2:	309:	417:
EUROPE											
Austria 5/	231:	165:	130:	359:	215:	250 6/	18 6/	12 6/	12:	617:	400:
Belgium.....	304:	228:	270:	367:	225:	300:	7:	5:	5:	693:	530:
Bulgaria 1/	105:	141:	134:	134:	140:	145:	88:	5:	5:	337:	585:
Czechoslovakia 8/	411:	261:	230:	480:	405:	485:	6:	6:	4:	912:	735:
Denmark 3/9/	361:	240:	266:	725:	379:	586:	8:	6:	4:	1,103:	890:
Eire.....	103:	159:	128:	196:	105:	151:	37:	38:	32:	336:	311:
Finland 3/	115:	84:	80:	122:	117:	143:	10:	11:	12:	256:	245:
France.....	2,200:	1,885:	2,100:	1,494:	1,543:	1,625 6/	222 6/	132 6/	135:	4,015:	3,693:
Germany-Western 1/	1,550:	800:	1,000:	2,500:	930:	1,300:	45 3/	35:	50:	4,140:	1,825:
Greece 10/	32:	27:	34:	40:	37:	39 6/	136 6/	103 6/	90:	208:	167:
Hungary 10/	121:	121:	605:	386:	222:	222:	22:	22:	115:	538:	1,360 11/
Italy.....	308:	176:	202:	675 11/	660:	700 6/	108 6/	110 6/	11:	1,542 11/	1,460:
Netherlands.....	94:	67:	81 11/	548:	209:	300:	20:	7:	11:	894:	414:
Norway.....	755:	247:	251:	1,655:	44:	71 11/	32:	25:	26 11/	223:	141:
Poland 12/	292:	236:	251:	13:	327:	384 6/	188:	8 6/	4:	2,450:	595:
Rumania.....	217:	143:	181:	327:	331:	176:	4:	6 6/	4:	649:	668:
Sweden 3/	1,393:	1,117:	1,185:	1,012:	151:	530:	44 7/	27:	315:	413:	309:
Switzerland.....	243:	243:	476:	476:	147:	6:	147:	147:	888:	1,721:	2,030:
Yugoslavia.....	2,855:	2,855:	3,459:	3,459:	978:	978:	978:	978:	978:	978:	978:
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 12/13/											
SOUTH AMERICA											
Argentina.....	3,838:	4,290:	4,270 14/	243 14/	300 14/	340:	378:	535:	485:	4,459:	5,125:
Brazil 14/	1,821:	2,192:	2,200:	369:	497:	510:	15:	39:	40:	2,214:	2,756:
Chile.....	235:	281:	244:	39:	55:	56:	72:	93:	82:	349:	382:
Paraguay.....	167:	270:	200:	14:	29:	21:	62:	20:	39:	167:	270:
Uruguay 14/	505:	401:	546:	14:	29:	21:	62:	20:	39:	581:	450:
AFRICA											
Union of South Africa.....	421:	661:	682:	64:	80:	104 6/	186 6/	211 6/	175:	671:	952:
OCEANIA											
Australia 10/	1,275:	1,290:	1,310 11/	211:	204:	195 11/	716:	641:	770 11/	2,202:	2,437:
New Zealand 15/	365:	411:	375:	106:	83:	85:	553:	677:	695:	1,024:	1,171:

1/ Carcass meat basis-excludes edible offal and lard. 2/ Includes other meat, i.e. goat and horse meat. Excludes offal, rabbit and poultry meat.
 3/ Averages for years 1935-39. 4/ Averages for years 1935-39. 5/ Averages for years 1933-37. 6/ Includes goat meat. 7/ Averages for years 1935-38.
 8/ Year 1936 for prewar. 9/ Includes carcass meat equivalent of live animal exports. 10/ Averages for years 1936-38. 11/ Year beginning July 1.
 12/ Year 1938 for prewar. 13/ Prewar territory. 14/ Excludes farm production. 15/ Year beginning July 1 for prewar (1936-38): year ending September 30 for years 1948 and 1949.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted.

prewar. France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland and Italy are the largest producers of meat in Europe, but all of these countries except France and Italy are considerably below the 1934-38 average. In Denmark, the Netherlands and Ireland, the traditional meat exporters of Western Europe, the 1949 production was increased by 36, 29 and 3 percent, respectively, but all three countries are considerably below prewar.

Only limited statistics and information are available in regard to Eastern Europe. However, livestock numbers generally are believed to have increased and meat production has very likely been augmented. In relation to prewar, the present meat output is believed to be considerably smaller.

Larger quantity of feedgrain supplies and better pasture conditions in the Soviet Union have enabled producers to increase livestock numbers and to continue the upward trend in meat production. The year's output is believed to be considerably larger than that of 1948, but very much below the production of the prewar period.

Meat production in the Middle East is believed to have remained relatively constant with no significant change. In the Union of South Africa, meat production in 1949 increased slightly, and continues to be about 45 percent above the 1934-38 level.

Drought conditions in the latter part of 1949, particularly in Argentina and Uruguay, have brought about some liquidation of cattle and as a result South American meat production in 1949 is almost at the high level of 1947. Recent rains are believed to be sufficient for the growth of grass which may enable cattle numbers to be maintained without further losses. The number of cattle lost before the arrival of rains can be expected to reflect some decrease in exports in the next year or two. Production in Chile and Paraguay fell off, while Brazilian and Colombian output evidenced minor gains during the year. No significant changes are anticipated in 1950 except for continuance of a relatively large production in Uruguay.

Generally improved grazing conditions during the past two years reflect the upward trend in Australian meat production and the continuance of a high level of production in New Zealand. Australian and New Zealand meat production was 106 and 99 percent, respectively, of the previous year's output and both countries are above their prewar average.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, Elmer A. Reese, and Lois B. Bacon.

WORLD COTTON CROP ESTIMATE REVISED UPWARD

World cotton production in 1949-50 is estimated at 31,220,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), compared with an earlier estimate of 30,850,000 bales. The present estimate represents an increase of 2,080,000 bales or 7 percent above a revised estimate of 29,140,000 bales for 1948-49 and nearly one-fourth larger than the crop of 1947-48. It is the third highest on record. The United States accounted for 1,250,000 of the 2,080,000-bale increase over the 1948-49 estimate. The 1949-50 crop was exceeded only in 1936-37 and 1937-38 when production reached 32,350,000 and 39,000,000 bales, respectively. The upward revision of 370,000 bales in the 1949-50 estimate since the last report was issued on January 30, 1950, was divided among Mexico, the United States, Turkey, Pakistan, Argentina, Peru, and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.

Production in Mexico has been rising rapidly since 1947, stimulated by the opening of new irrigation works, attractive world cotton prices, and by earlier devaluation of the national currency that caused further rises in prices of Mexican cotton in terms of pesos. The 1949-50 crop of 985,000 bales is nearly double the 1948-49 crop of 570,000 bales, which was a record crop at that time. Practically all of last year's surplus for export has already been sold and a further substantial increase in acreage was planned for the 1950 crop (picking is begun late in June).

The United States crop of 16,127,000 bales of 500 pounds (15,908,000 running bales) is the fourth largest on record. The increase of 1,250,000 bales over the 1948 crop is attributed to a 19 percent increase in acreage from 22,921,000 to 27,230,000 acres. Favorable prices and the absence of acreage controls were the principal factors influencing the sharp increase in acreage. Yields per acre averaged 284 pounds compared with 311 pounds in 1948. Record crops and high yields were harvested in Texas and States farther west but excessive rainfall and heavy boll weevil damage caused lower than average yields in the central and eastern part of the Cotton Belt.

There was little change in estimates for the southern European crop (about 164,000 bales in 1949-50) as a whole, but increases in Greece and Yugoslavia were nearly offset by decreases in Spain and Italy. Information on the cotton crop in the Soviet Union is not complete but indications are that acreage was increased by about 450,000 acres to 4,550,000 in 1949-50. Lower yields apparently resulted in a smaller increase in production. The 1949-50 crop is estimated by this Office at 2,700,000 bales or 100,000 above that of a year ago.

Information from the major producing countries of Asia indicate that the 1949-50 crop in China probably did not exceed 1,700,000 bales, compared with an estimate of 2,115,000 bales for the previous year. Wide-scale military operations, relatively higher prices for food commodities, and unfavorable weather conditions were the principal factors that limited both acreage and production in China in 1949-50. Considerable expansion of cotton acreage in Turkey has been under way about 2 years, with production estimated at 436,000 bales in 1949-50, compared with 308,000 in 1948-49 and a prewar average of 249,000. Further substantial increases are planned.

COTTON: Acreage and production in specified areas,
averages 1935-39 and 1940-44, annual 1947-49 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production 2/				
	Year beginning August 1					Year beginning August 1				
	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages	Averages
	1935-39	1940-44	1947	1948 3/	1949 3/	1935-39	1940-44	1947	1948 3/	1949 3/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
NORTH AMERICA										
El Salvador.....	9:	23:	38:	32:	34:	5:	12:	22:	22:	28
Guatemala.....	-	7:	7:	8:	8:	2:	3:	5:	5:	5
Mexico.....	725:	855:	927:	1,050:	1,446:	334:	425:	484:	570:	985
Nicaragua.....	9:	7:	-	8:	35:	5:	5:	4:	6:	20
United States.....	27,788:	21,992:	21,380:	22,921:	27,230:	13,149:	11,957:	11,860:	14,877:	16,127
British West Indies.....	20:	20:	9:	12:	-	5:	5:	3:	5:	4
Haiti.....	-	-	40:	40:	40:	22:	12:	11:	13:	14
Total 4/.....	28,642:	22,960:	22,410:	24,075:	28,809:	13,523:	12,421:	12,389:	15,498:	17,183
EUROPE										
Bulgaria.....	85:	61:	105:	-	-	35:	17:	28:	-	-
Greece.....	168:	101:	105:	112:	141:	76:	27:	53:	54:	71
Italy.....	56:	106:	45:	38:	43:	21:	27:	15:	12:	9
Rumania 5/.....	8:	63:	109:	-	-	2:	11:	16:	-	-
Spain.....	46:	96:	108:	132 6/	142:	10:	17:	13:	31:	14
Yugoslavia.....	8:	15:	-	-	-	3:	4:	-	-	-
Total 4/.....	372:	443:	499:	593:	662:	147:	103:	135:	161:	164
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	5,087:	3,911:	3,625:	4,100:	4,550:	3,430:	2,080:	2,400:	2,600:	2,700
ASIA										
Cyprus.....	11:	6:	-	5:	6:	3:	1:	1:	1:	2
Iran.....	453:	384:	205:	259:	222:	171:	105:	80:	92:	96
Iraq.....	53:	73:	21:	25:	-	11:	10:	3:	2:	8
Syria.....	85:	48:	48:	54:	-	28:	15:	25:	28:	-
Turkey.....	667:	736:	502:	734:	885:	249:	241:	218:	308:	436
Afghanistan.....	-	-	-	-	-	49:	23:	10:	20:	20
Burma.....	428:	364:	192:	171:	142:	97:	80:	35:	35:	22
China (inc. Manchuria).....	7,032:	5,849:	6,400:	6,300:	5,300:	2,855:	2,012:	2,136:	2,115:	1,700
French Indochina.....	36:	-	-	-	-	6:	7:	3:	3:	3
Japan.....	2:	-	7:	7:	12:	1:	1:	5:	2:	3
India.....	2/ 24,204:	2/ 20,518:	10,932:	11,055:	11,500 7/	5,348 7/	4,853:	2,510:	1,960:	2,300
Korea 8/.....	564:	776:	355:	282 6/	330:	198:	196:	64:	72:	81
Indonesia.....	27:	24:	-	-	-	9:	10:	1:	1:	1
Pakistan.....	7/	7/	3,122:	2,799:	2,811:	7/	7/	925:	832:	957
Philippine Islands.....	5:	15:	-	2:	3:	1:	3:	9/	9/	1
Siam.....	16:	80:	87:	70:	-	7:	29:	27:	27:	27
Total 4/.....	33,805:	29,100:	21,960:	21,900:	21,648:	9,038:	7,593:	6,045:	5,504:	5,720
SOUTH AMERICA										
Argentina.....	770:	826:	815:	1,150:	1,200:	289:	398:	423:	450:	500
Brazil.....	5,562:	5,812:	4,500:	4,100:	4,500:	1,956:	2,169:	1,260:	1,500:	1,635
Colombia.....	98:	99:	-	-	-	23:	22:	25:	28:	40
Ecuador.....	40:	38:	-	-	-	13:	9:	10:	12:	9
Paraguay.....	111:	116:	74:	131:	180:	40:	42:	33:	50:	60
Peru.....	428:	353:	321:	358:	-	384:	310:	282:	296:	325
Venezuela.....	50:	53:	-	-	-	11:	15:	10:	13:	5
Total 4/.....	7,060:	7,299:	5,917:	5,976:	6,492:	2,716:	2,965:	2,043:	2,350:	2,575
AFRICA AND OCEANIA										
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....	439:	363:	363:	402:	428:	248:	253:	215:	256:	281
Belgian Congo.....	874:	923:	754:	741:	-	172:	182:	184:	220:	200
Kenya.....	-	-	28 6/	43:	-	13:	21:	4:	8:	6
Nyasaland.....	84:	56:	-	-	-	12:	7:	11:	10:	8
Tanganyika.....	-	-	-	-	-	50:	45:	42:	38:	43
Uganda.....	1,477:	1,152:	1,037:	1,561:	1,629:	281:	198:	141:	325:	267
Egypt.....	1,821:	1,162:	1,302:	1,496:	1,754:	1,893:	1,243:	1,314:	1,836:	1,691
French Equatorial Africa.....	390:	583:	-	-	-	41:	87:	108:	107:	110
French Morocco.....	1:	5:	-	2:	2:	9/	2:	2:	1:	1
French West Africa.....	-	-	-	-	-	28:	20:	14:	16:	35
Mozambique.....	-	497:	-	634:	- 10/	33:	93:	101:	119:	125
Nigeria.....	-	-	-	-	-	36:	30:	60:	60:	60
Angola.....	73:	-	-	-	-	13:	24:	24:	20:	28
Southern Rhodesia.....	2:	5:	4:	-	-	9/	1:	1:	1:	1
Union of South Africa.....	-	-	-	8:	27:	2:	1:	2:	4:	16
Australia.....	53:	35:	7:	2:	4:	11:	7:	2:	1:	1
Total 4/.....	6,176:	5,642:	5,299:	6,306:	6,759:	2,840:	2,219:	2,228:	3,027:	2,878
World total 4/.....	81,142:	69,355:	59,710:	62,950:	68,920:	31,694:	27,381:	25,240:	29,140:	31,220

1/ United States production in bales of 500 pounds gross weight (480 pounds net); others in bales of 478 pounds net through 1945 and 480 pounds thereafter. 2/ Years shown refer to crop years in which the major portion of crop was harvested. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Planted area. 7/ Pakistan included with India. 8/ South Korea only, after 1941. 9/ Less than 500. 10/ Exports.

Drought in southern India was detrimental to the cotton crop so that current estimates of the 1949-50 crop are equivalent to only about 2,300,000 bales of 500 pounds. This represents an increase of about 340,000 bales above last year's small crop of 1,960,000 bales but is below earlier estimates and less than two-thirds of the prewar average. An apparent moderation this year in the government's previous policy of discouraging the planting of cotton in favor of a greater acreage in food crops is expected to result in a substantial increase in cotton acreage in 1950-51 but not to the prewar level.

The 1949-50 estimate for Pakistan is revised upward to 957,000 bales, representing an increase of 125,000 bales over that for 1948-49 but it is about 200,000 bales below production in the early postwar years of 1945-46 and 1946-47 before the separation of Pakistan from India.

In South America, the 1949-50 estimate of 500,000 bales for Argentina is 50,000 above that for 1948-49 and second only to the 553,000-bale crop of 1943-44. It is possible, however, that the estimate will subsequently be reduced to take account of unseasonal rains in February and March. The current estimate of 1,635,000 bales for the 1949-50 crop in Brazil is 65,000 bales lower than the last previous estimate as a result of unseasonal rains in South Brazil in April. This estimate is 135,000 bales above that for 1948-49 and shows a slow upward trend from the low level of 1945-46 through 1947-48, but is only 75 percent of the wartime average and 84 percent of the prewar average.

Cotton acreage in Peru is still indirectly discouraged by more favorable prices available for food commodities and government requirements that specified acreage be planted to food crops. The 1949-50 estimate of 325,000 bales is slightly higher than that for 1948-49 and the average since 1942 when acreage restrictions were imposed. Production in Paraguay, estimated at 60,000 bales for 1949-50, is 10,000 bales higher than that in 1948-49. This is only a preliminary estimate, however, and it may be reduced later on account of the unfavorable weather at harvest time mentioned in subsequent reports.

In the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan the 1949-50 production estimate of 281,000 bales is 25,000 bales higher than that for the previous year. The increase is attributed to a small increase in acreage from 402,000 to 428,000 acres.

Cotton acreage in Uganda (British East Africa) was increased in 1949-50 to 1,629,000 acres from 1,561,000 reported a year ago. Excessive rain reduced yields, however, and resulted in a crop of only 257,000 bales compared with 325,000 a year ago.

In Egypt cotton acreage was increased from 1,496,000 acres in 1948-49 to 1,754,000 in 1949-50, but heavy leafworm and pink bollworm damage resulted in lower yields per acre. The most recent official estimate released on December 6, 1949, placed the 1949-50 crop at

1,691,000 equivalent bales of 500 pounds, compared with 1,836,000 a year ago and a prewar average of 1,893,000 bales. Ginning reports, however, show 1,711,000 bales from the 1949-50 crop ginned prior to March 31, 1950. The cotton from the 1948-49 crop ginned after this date in 1949 was equivalent to about 380,000 bales, but the crop was later in that year. The next official report, due about the middle of June, probably will show some upward revision in the 1949-50 estimate.

Production estimates for other parts of Africa, totaling about 640,000 bales in 1949-50, were slightly larger than a corresponding total of 610,000 bales for 1948-49.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, A. W. Palmer, C. H. Barber, Lazar Volin, C. M. Purves, Guy L. Bush and Gustave Burmeister.

U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING MARCH 1950 1/

United States exports of agricultural products during March, the ninth month of the 1949-50 fiscal year, were valued at \$260,692,000, an increase of \$14,680,000 compared with February exports but still some \$39,000,000 under the current season's record of \$299,822,000 for the month of December 1949. The nation's exports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, were valued at \$357,794,000 during March. Agricultural products accounted for slightly more than 30 percent of the total.

Cotton continued to hold first place in value of agricultural exports during the month, the total amounting to \$111,059,000, the highest level thus far attained this season. In March last year, cotton exports were valued at \$97,672,000. Wheat and wheat flour exports, valued at \$48,915,000, continued in second position although at a greatly reduced level compared with March last year when the exports were valued at \$97,939,000. Tobacco moved into third position this month, the exports being valued at \$12,752,000 compared with \$12,734,000 in March a year ago.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the March agricultural exports, compared with those for the same month a year ago, were the large increases in exports of nonfat dry milk solids, pork, lard, cotton, apples, pears, canned fruits, hops, soya flour, and white

1/ The publication U.S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products, containing fuller trade data than this summary presents, is published regularly and distributed free upon request by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected
agricultural products, during March 1949 and 1950

Commodity exported	Unit	March			
		Quantity		Value	
		1949	1950	1949	1950
				1,000	1,000
		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Butter	Lb.	443	235	311	158
Cheese	Lb.	2,306	376	925	167
Milk, condensed	Lb.	11,021	2,514	2,288	551
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	4,616	5,974	2,487	2,828
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	8,288	16,998	1,264	2,330
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	21,688	8,694	2,891	1,113
Eggs, dried	Lb.	446	93	323	79
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	1,709	1,021	571	390
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	2,943	5,584	1,076	1,368
Horse meat	Lb.	4,781	1,444	758	221
Lard (including neutral)	Lb.	55,604	74,019	8,584	8,634
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	33,539	33,571	3,661	2,618
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	602	706	97,672	111,059
Apples, fresh	Lb.	5,879	18,322	498	1,150
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	20,540	7,644	761	383
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	40,207	35,109	1,776	2,093
Pears, fresh	Lb.	461	1,833	50	186
Prunes, dried	Lb.	29,407	17,529	2,643	1,671
Raisins and currants	Lb.	35,597	14,661	2,413	1,352
Fruits, canned	Lb.	3,901	6,133	650	851
Fruit juices	Gal.	1,598	1,408	1,415	1,341
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	2,369	1,287	3,491	1,763
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	495	389	1,302	936
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	21,228	6,111	34,637	10,140
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	687	931	1,059	1,241
Rice, milled, brown, etc.	Lb.	50,255	20,352	4,553	1,586
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	32,358	18,838	81,869	40,756
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	2,991	1,472	15,735	5,787
Flour, other (100 lb.)	Bag	50	450	335	2,372
Hops	Lb.	1,214	2,120	966	1,716
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	39,833	4,320	6,343	386
Soybeans (except canned)	Lb.	205,985	113,178	9,279	4,791
Soybean oil, crude and refined	Lb.	24,514	26,684	4,080	3,392
Soya flour	Lb.	131	2,176	7	93
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	4,714	1,942	1,897	685
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	15,455	19,419	7,966	8,408
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	9,257	8,593	4,768	4,344
Beans, dried	Lb.	24,803	3,829	3,645	312
Peas, dried	Lb.	39,161	2,865	2,431	248
Potatoes, white	Lb.	8,057	138,840	273	855
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	4,893	5,030	656	724
Total above				318,309	231,078
Food exported for relief, etc.				2,264	2,485
Other agricultural products				42,258	27,129
Total agricultural				362,831	260,692
Total all commodities				3,164,073	857,794

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption
of selected agricultural products during March 1949 and 1950

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit:	March			
		Quantity		Value	
		1949	1950	1949	1950
				1,000	1,000
		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars:	dollars
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Cattle, dutiable	No.: 22	35		3,586	4,974
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.: 2	2		508	465
Casein and lactarene	Lb.: 1,082	2,517		211	360
Cheese	Lb.: 2,035	3,540		1,179	1,784
Hides and skins	Lb.: 9,911	21,609		5,250	7,442
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.: 4,653	7,226		1,576	2,336
Wool, unmfed, excl. free, etc.	Lb.: 17,919	33,979		12,055	19,279
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfed., excl. lintors (480 lb.)	Bale: 8	62		686	12,706
Jute and jute butts, unmfed. (2,240 lb.)	Ton: 12	9		4,585	2,454
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.: 63	328		195	685
Olives in brine	Gal.: 1,047	1,187		2,184	2,078
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.: 4,999	34,468		594	949
Barley malt	Lb.: 8,881	9,343		447	437
Hops	Lb.: 486	30		519	33
Almonds, shelled	Lb.: 1,064	95		353	34
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled ...	Lb.: 405	0		39	0
Cashew nuts	Lb.: 1,615	2,322		620	772
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.: 10,247	10,656		1,814	1,754
Castor beans	Lb.: 26,693	17,917		1,458	911
Copra	Lb.: 52,012	55,807		5,402	4,695
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.: 46	1/		248	2
Coconut oil	Lb.: 7,796	7,152		1,104	912
Palm oil	Lb.: 5,286	1,473		774	148
Tung oil	Lb.: 2,906	6,380		548	1,433
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton: 455	437		44,629	43,344
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.: 16,276	37,331		1,968	2,032
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.: 6,131	6,175		4,585	4,448
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.: 1,127	1,246		1,738	1,978
Potatoes, white	Lb.: 69,154	59,929		1,777	1,215
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.: 30,608	36,606		2,249	1,549
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfed., free in bond	Lb.: 13,372	32,651		4,374	12,584
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch 5,047	4,830		4,501	5,013
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.: 274,642	174,312		73,459	73,089
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.: 99,487	54,960		24,434	12,486
Tea	Lb.: 8,128	13,839		3,848	6,988
Spices (complementary)	Lb.: 3,678	8,036		1,633	4,945
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton: 12	13		3,726	3,143
Rubber, crude	Lb.: 126,962	137,717		21,698	22,947
Total above				240,554	262,404
Other agricultural products				34,484	43,537
Total agricultural products				275,038	305,941
Total all commodities				624,085	658,660

1/ Less than 500.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

potatoes. On the other hand, the figures reveal large quantitative reductions for exports of cheese, condensed and evaporated milk, dried eggs, beef and veal, horse meat, citrus fruit, dried fruit, barley and malt, corn, milled rice, wheat and wheat flour, peanuts, soybeans, field and garden seeds, and dried beans and peas.

United States imports of agricultural products during March 1950 were valued at \$305,941,000, the highest level attained thus far this season. In March a year ago, agricultural imports were valued at \$275,038,000. The nation's imports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, were valued at \$658,660,000 during the month under review. Agricultural products accounted for more than 46 percent of the total. Heading the list and far in the lead of any other commodity were coffee, sugar, wool and rubber. In March 1950, the United States was a net importer of agricultural products to the extent of \$45,249,000 while in March a year ago it was a net exporter to the extent of \$87,793,000.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding developments revealed by the March import figures, compared with March 1949, were the large increases in imports of casein and lactarene, cheese, hides and skins, canned and corned beef, wool, pineapples, tung oil, molasses, fresh tomatoes, spices, tea and rubber. On the other hand, large reductions are shown for imports of castor beans, palm oil, white potatoes, coffee and cocoa or cacao beans.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

SPAIN'S OILSEED PRODUCTION CONTINUES SMALL

Spain's production of oilseeds, other than olives, amounts to about 22,000 to 27,000 short tons a year. Approximately one-third to one-half of this production is peanuts few of which are crushed for oil. The only other significant source of vegetable oil is cottonseed. A short cotton crop in 1949 resulted in an estimated 6,700 tons of commercial cottonseed compared with about 14,330 tons in 1948.

Production of other types of oilseeds - hempseed, flaxseed, and sunflowerseed - totaling about 3,800 tons in any one year is not thought to have varied significantly in 1949. In 1947, the last year for which official figures have been released, the distribution was: 1,730 tons of hempseed, 1,470 tons of sunflower seed, and 750 tons of flaxseed.

Except for substantial imports of soybean oil from the United States Spanish importation of vegetable oils, oilseeds, and animal fats in 1949 continued the decline of the last few years, totaling 11,680 tons against 19,400 in 1948. Approximately 19,840 tons of soybean oil were imported from the United States and mixed with edible olive oil partially to alleviate the extreme shortage of olive oil. The development of Spanish Guinea as a source of vegetable oil continued in 1949. Shipments of both copra and palm oil increased. Portuguese West Africa became an unimportant source of supply.

Present prospects indicate greater supplies of vegetable oils from indigenous sources in 1950, due to better growing conditions. Some soybean or peanut oil will have to be imported, probably from the United States, to meet the local demand. The volume imported will depend upon the volume of olive oil exported.

THAILAND'S OILSEED SITUATION

Thailand's vegetable oilseed production includes castor beans, coconuts, peanuts, sesame, soybeans, and tung. The 1949-50 castor bean crop was reported at almost 300 short tons from 1,200 acres compared with 260 tons from 1,100 acres in 1947-48. Some of the beans are crushed within the country, but castor oil production figures are not available.

Coconut palms are abundant, especially along the seacoast in the South where plantations extend to the border to Malaya. Only about 90 million coconuts were produced in 1947 (latest year reported) against an average of almost 250 million for the 5 previous years. Production in 1948 was insufficient to meet domestic requirements. Since this shortage persisted in 1949, the Government retained the regulations controlling exports of coconuts and coconut products which were promulgated in 1948. Coconut and copra exports have been prohibited since April 30, 1948, and coconut oil exports were banned on March 30, 1950.

Copra production statistics are not available. It is estimated that in 1948 coconut oil production amounted to about 11,000 tons. In the same year it was reported that there were 24 coconut oil factories, 20 of which were located in Bangkok. The soap manufacturers of Bangkok are the largest consumers of coconut oil. A small quantity of palm oil is produced locally but no information regarding this industry is available.

Peanuts are now grown in quantities sufficient to meet local needs. In recent years some have been exported. In 1948 about 14,000 tons were produced from 14,800 acres compared with 10,900 tons from 11,300 acres in 1939.

An estimated 2,090 tons of sesame seed were produced in 1949-50 against 1,050 tons in 1939. Soybeans are frequently planted as a second crop to follow rice. In 1947, 360,900 bushels were produced from 35,000

acres compared with 277,000 bushels from 15,000 acres in 1939. In February of this year the Ministry of Industry announced plans to encourage soybean oil production for home consumption and export. Plans are still in the initial stages, but it is believed that if such mills are established they will be built in Chiongrai.

Tung oil production in Thailand is still on an experimental basis. Total area now under cultivation is about 400 acres.

ANTARCTIC WHALE AND SPERM OIL PRODUCTION TOTALS 376,000 TONS

Combined production of whale and sperm oil from the Antarctic pelagic catch during the 1949-50 season, which closed March 15, totaled 375,817 short tons, according to the American Consulate, Durban, Union of South Africa.

This output, of which about 6 percent was sperm oil, was somewhat greater than that of the previous season. The production of whale oil, according to preliminary data, was 351,643 tons, and sperm oil output was 24,174 tons.

Eighteen expeditions representing 6 countries engaged in pelagic whaling during the season which closed 2 months ago. Norway, with the largest number, had 10 expeditions. The United Kingdom had 3, Japan had 2 and the Netherlands, the Soviet Union and the Union of South Africa each had one.

Norway's production of whale and sperm oil together, totaling 195,158 tons, comprised more than half of the total output of the 6 countries represented. The United Kingdom's volume, the second largest, was 87,602 tons. Japan's output of 31,471 tons was third, followed closely by the 26,917 tons produced by the Union of South Africa.

Inasmuch as the total catch of whales in any season is limited to a maximum of only 16,000 blue-whale units, in accordance with the provisions of the International Whaling Agreement of December, 1946, and since there is no limit on the number of expeditions permitted to operate, established operators are inclined to resent the intrusion of newcomers to the field.

Consequently, there is evidence in some quarters of bitterness toward announced plans that Argentina, the United States, and possibly Germany and Australia, will have expeditions in the Antarctic at some early time. There is severe criticism to the effect that the expenditure of large sums for the construction and equipment of factory ships and catcher fleets will result in no increase of total over-all production but will result in a diminished share to each of the present participants.

WHALE AND SPERM OIL: Production from catch in Antarctic during 1949-50 pelagic whaling season 1/2/

Country and expedition	P R O D U C T I O N					Blue-whale; Production		
	Whale oil; Sperm oil:		Whale oil; Sperm oil:		Total:	units		per unit
	Barrels	Total	Short tons	Barrels	Total	Number	Short tons	
NORWAY								
Thorshovdi.....	108,249:	8,615:	116,864:	20,207:	1,608:	917	23.8	
Thorshavet.....	134,317:	5,703:	140,020:	25,072:	1,065:	1,100	23.8	
Thorshammer.....	75,480:	8,750:	84,230:	14,090:	1,633:	630	25.0	
Kosmos III.....	132,550:	10,750:	143,300:	24,742:	2,007:	1,109	24.1	
Kosmos IV.....	119,136:	12,364:	131,500:	22,239:	2,308:	1,060	23.2	
Pelagos.....	100,404:	2,750:	103,154:	18,742:	513:	898	21.4	
Antarctic.....	79,323:	2,000:	81,323:	14,807:	373:	662	22.9	
Northval.....	100,000:	4,500:	104,500:	18,667:	840:	848	23.0	
Sir James Clark Ross.....	80,400:	3,900:	84,300:	15,008:	728:	642	24.5	
Suderoys.....	56,000:	300:	56,300:	10,453:	56:	440	23.9	
Sub-total.....	985,859:	59,632:	1,045,491:	184,027:	11,131:	8,306	23.5	
UNITED KINGDOM								
Balaena.....	185,500:	18,000:	203,500:	34,627:	3,360:	1,757	21.6	
Southern Venturer.....	138,390:	9,760:	148,150:	25,833:	1,822:	1,142	24.2	
Southern Harvester.....	102,670:	14,975:	117,645:	19,165:	2,795:	814	27.0	
Sub-total.....	426,560:	42,735:	469,295:	79,625:	7,977:	3,713	23.6	
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA								
Empire Victory.....	134,300:	9,900:	144,200:	25,069:	1,848:	1,049	25.7	
THE NETHERLANDS								
William Barendsz.....	77,377:	4,957:	82,334:	14,444:	925:	686.8:	22.4	
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:								
Slava.....	100,823:	2,570:	103,393:	18,820:	480:	845.6:	22.8	
JAPAN								
Hashidate Maru.....	71,765:	0:	71,765:	13,396:	0:	632.5:	21.2	
Nisshin Maru.....	87,118:	9,712:	96,830:	16,262:	1,813:	740.3:	24.4	
Sub-total.....	158,883:	9,712:	168,595:	29,658:	1,813:	1,372.8:	22.9	
Grand total.....	1,883,802:	129,506:	2,013,308:	351,643:	24,174:	15,973.2:	23.5	

1/ Preliminary and subject to verification after factory ships have discharged their cargoes of oil. 2/ The 1949-50 season, originally defined as December 22-April 7, was terminated effective midnight March 15. 3/ Varies slightly from the figure of 16,011 blue-whale units released by International Bureau of Whaling Statistics in mid-April.

U.S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED FATS, OILS AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds during January-March 1950 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,
January-March 1950 with comparisons

C o m m o d i t y	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 <u>1/</u>	January-March	
				1949 <u>1/</u>	1950 <u>1/</u>
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.	<u>2/</u> 4,793	23,361	6,622	3,803
Soybean oil:					
Refined.....	1,000 lbs.	<u>3/</u> (6,467	211,519	17,484	18,556
Crude.....	" "	(147,062	147,062	23,397	81,093
Coconut oil:					
Refined.....	" "	3,789	4,550	1,002	1,959
Crude.....	" "	10,442	13,888	2,078	2,296
Cottonseed.....	" "	<u>3/</u>	15,015	10,345	13,682
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined.....	" "	4,793	54,337	10,357	16,700
Crude.....	" "	1,515	62,272	10,529	33,819
Flaxseed.....	1,000 bu.	<u>3/</u>	3,107	1,435	1,005
Linseed oil.....	1,000 lbs.	1,280	3,829	1,161	3,338
Peanuts:					
Shelled.....	" "	<u>3/</u> (452	349,297	160,538	23,025
Unshelled.....	" "	(8,543	8,543	2,087	637
Peanut oil:					
Refined.....	" "	<u>3/4/</u> (325	24,636	2,161	3,287
Crude.....	" "	(42,344	42,344	1,077	22,647
Corn oil:					
Refined.....	" "	<u>3/</u> (500	1,358	256	294
Crude.....	" "	(773	773	4	70
Vegetable stearine.....	" "	<u>3/</u>	4,765	2,574	499
Vegetable tallow and wax.....	" "	<u>3/</u>	8,222	896	1,156
Fatty vegetable acids.....	" "	<u>3/</u>	39,541	6,782	9,522
Oleomargarine.....	" "	180	2,009	673	739
Cooking fats.....	" "	2,111	22,741	4,583	3,160
Lard.....	" "	165,636	613,698	131,942	188,372
Tallow:					
Edible.....	" "	409	24,983	1,553	1,624
Inedible.....	" "	<u>2/</u> 1,552	362,125	63,683	83,185
Neat's foot oil.....	" "	792	629	109	159
Stearic acid.....	" "	568	9,810	2,471	1,258
Other animal fats and greases.....	" "	6,756	63,546	17,253	12,710
Fish oils excl. medicinal.....	" "	2,467	38,617	13,287	9,704

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Average of less than 5 years. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED OILS AND OILSEEDS

The following table shows United States imports of specified oils and oilseeds during January-March 1950 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Imports 1/ of specified oils and oilseeds,
January-March 1950 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1949 2/	January-March	
				1949 2/	1950 2/
Babassu kernels	1,000 lbs.	3/	46,691	27,636	22,925
Babassu oil.....	" "	4/ 346	3,565	1,468	1,676
Castor beans.....	" "	132,924	289,936	98,310	66,838
Castor oil.....	" "	226	10,618	921	9,936
Flaxseed.....	" bu.	18,470	148	124	2
Linseed oil.....	" lbs.	713	1,317	792	1
Copra.....	Short tons	230,000	428,230	68,468	99,689
Coconut oil.....	1,000 lbs.	342,717	115,051	24,795	28,557
Oiticia oil.....	" "	4/ 7,673	8,940	4,359	186
Olive oil					
Edible.....	" "	62,811	20,050	6,231	12,627
Inedible.....	" "	35,448	3,124	41	241
Palm oil.....	" "	321,482	82,340	20,996	3,739
Sesame seed.....	" "	58,425	10,818	3,320	2,740
Tea seed oil.....	" "	13,159	141	36	0
Tucum kernels....	" "	4/ 9,810	30,183	9,920	3,198
Tung oil.....	" "	123,190	64,968	23,415	11,863
Sesame oil					
Edible.....	" "	10,651	255	76	190
Rapeseed oil					
Denatured.....	" "	11,062	3,759	72	1,024
Herring oil.....	" "	30	15,897	3,926	5,709

1/ Imports for consumption. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. 4/ Average of less than 5 years.

Compiled from official sources.

U.S. SESAME SEED
OIL IMPORTS

The following table shows United States imports of sesame seed oil, 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Sesame seed oil imports, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average: 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 <u>1/</u>	1949 <u>1/</u>
North America:					
El Salvador.....	-	-	-	-	28
Guatemala.....	-	-	-	-	44
Mexico.....	6	11	16	703	1
Nicaragua.....	-	-	-	-	33
Total.....	6	11	16	703	106
Europe:					
Belgium.....	26	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	500	-	-	-	-
Germany.....	53	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	4,329	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom....	64	-	-	-	-
Total.....	4,972	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
China.....	224	4	80	15	21
Hong Kong.....	9	1	2	1	1
Indonesia.....	64	-	-	-	-
Japan.....	48	-	-	-	-
Other.....	8	-	1	1	-
Total.....	353	5	83	17	22
Africa.....	1	-	1	-	-
Grand total....	5,332	16	100	720	128

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

U. S. SESAME
SEED IMPORTS

The following table shows United States imports of sesame seed, 1949 with comparisons:

UNITED STATES: Sesame seed imports, 1949 with comparisons

(Short tons)

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 <u>1/</u>	1949 <u>1/</u>
North America:					
Dominican Republic..	-	56	52	66	43
El Salvador.....	16	-	593	1,812	1,210
Guatemala.....	4	2	-	402	-
Nicaragua.....	97	1,783	3,489	6,713	2,771
Other.....	141	-	-	5	23
Total.....	258	1,841	4,134	8,998	4,047
South America:					
Brazil.....	49	218	23	128	-
Ecuador.....	-	20	5	8	2
Other.....	19	26	-	-	-
Total.....	68	264	28	136	2
Europe.....	7	-	-	-	-
Asia:					
China.....	26,501	6	467	929	1,292
Hong Kong.....	638	3	5	59	67
India.....	484	94	34	-	-
Iran.....	-	1	-	352	-
Japan.....	574	-	-	-	1
Manchuria.....	455	-	-	-	-
Thailand.....	-	-	50	39	-
Turkey.....	16	-	-	281	-
Other.....	2	-	22	13	-
Total.....	28,670	104	578	1,673	1,360
Africa:					
British W. Africa..	1	-	-	-	-
Egypt.....	209	-	-	-	-
Mozambique.....	-	237	-	496	-
Total.....	210	237	-	496	-
Grand total.....	29,213	2,446	4,740	11,303	5,409

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

TOBACCO

FRANCE'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION AND
CONSUMPTION DECLINE; IMPORTS INCREASE

France's 1949 production of leaf tobacco was 9 percent below the 1948 harvest, according to the American Embassy in Paris. The consumption of tobacco products during 1949 was about 5 percent below the 1948 level. Leaf imports increased sharply in 1949, being 164 percent above 1948.

The country's 1949 tobacco crop is estimated on a farm sales weight basis at 97.4 million pounds from about 75,000 acres. This compares with 106.6 million pounds from approximately 64,000 acres in 1948 and the record 1947 outturn of 115.1 million pounds from 72,000 acres. The decline in production and yield in 1949 is attributed to a drought which prevailed during the summer months. On a farm sales weight basis the 1949 crop is estimated at 92.6 million pounds of so-called light tobacco and 4.8 million pounds of strong tobacco. After storage and fermentation the crop is expected to yield approximately 77.2 million pounds of light and 4.2 million pounds of strong tobacco.

Consumption of leaf in the manufacture of tobacco products in France in 1949 totaled approximately 136 million pounds, compared with about 144 million in 1948. Factory consumption of United States leaf totaled only about 10.3 million pounds in 1949, or 45 percent below the 1948 usings of 18.8 million pounds. The 1949 consumption of tobacco from other Western Hemisphere countries totaled about 10.6 million pounds which represented a decline of over 60 percent from the 1948 level. Substantial increases occurred in 1949 in the consumption of Oriental-type leaf from the Eastern Mediterranean Area, domestically-grown leaf and tobacco from France's overseas territories.

Leaf imports in 1949 totaled 74.3 million pounds, compared with 28.1 million in 1948 and 68.5 million in 1947. Algeria was the most important source of imported leaf, supplying 16.3 million pounds, or 22 percent of the total. Turkey ranked second as a source of imported leaf, imports from that country totaling 15.8 million pounds in 1949. The United States was the next most important source, supplying 15.2 million pounds in 1949. Other countries supplying substantial quantities of leaf in 1949 include Madagascar, Greece, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Colombia.

TROPICAL PRODUCTSU. S. IMPORTS OF COFFEE,
CACAO, AND TEA INCREASE

In 1949, the United States imported for domestic consumption 5 percent more coffee, 15 percent more cacao beans, and 4 percent more tea than in 1948, according to the Census Bureau.

In terms of value, coffee was again the leading agricultural commodity imported into the United States in 1949, accounting for 27 percent of agricultural imports and 12 percent of imports of all products. The quantity of coffee imported increased 5 percent from 2,773 million pounds in 1948 to 2,919 million in 1949, while the corresponding value increased 14 percent from 697 million dollars in 1948 to 794 million in 1949. In the prewar years (1935-39), the United States imported an annual average of 1,838 million pounds of coffee for consumption valued at 140 million dollars. The import valuation per pound of green coffee averaged 27.2 cents in 1949, compared with 25.1 cents in 1948 and 7.6 cents in the prewar period.

The leading sources of United States coffee imports in 1949 and the amount contributed by each were as follows: Brazil 1,688 million pounds, Colombia 655 million pounds, El Salvador 144 million pounds, Guatemala 109 million pounds, and Mexico 101 million pounds.

Cacao beans accounted for 4.3 percent of the value of agricultural products imported into the United States in 1949. The quantity of cacao beans imported into the United States for consumption increased 15 percent from 546 million pounds in 1948 to 629 million pounds in 1949, but the corresponding value decreased 36 percent from 194 million dollars in 1948 to 124 million in 1949. In the prewar years, the United States imported an annual average of 595 million pounds of cacao beans valued at 32 million dollars. The import valuation per pound of cacao beans averaged 19.8 cents in 1949, compared with 35.5 cents in 1948, and 5.4 cents in prewar years.

The leading sources of United States cacao imports in 1949 and the amount contributed by each were as follows: Brazil 200 million pounds, Gold Coast 193 million pounds, Nigeria 100 million pounds, Dominican Republic 45 million pounds, Ecuador 26 million pounds, and Venezuela 23 million pounds.

The quantity of tea imported into the United States for consumption increased 4 percent from 91.6 million pounds in 1948 to 94.9 million in 1949, while the corresponding value increased 2 percent from 45.2 million dollars in 1948 to 46.0 million dollars in 1949. In the prewar period, the United States imported an annual average of 88.5 million pounds of tea valued at 19.2 million dollars. The import valuation per pound of tea averaged 48.5 cents in 1949, compared with 49.3 cents in 1948 and 21.7 cents in prewar years.

The leading sources of United States tea imports in 1949 and the amount contributed by each were as follows: India 33.2 million pounds, Ceylon 31.7 million pounds, Indonesia 10.9 million pounds, Japan 4.6 million pounds, China 4.2 million pounds, Taiwan 4.0 million pounds, and Mozambique 3.7 million pounds.

UNITED STATES: Imports for consumption of coffee,
cacao, and tea, 1948 and 1949

Commodity	1948		1949	
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	dollars	pounds	dollars
Coffee	2,772,981	697,305	2,918,662	793,796
Cacao beans	546,011	193,721	628,787	124,497
Tea	91,585	45,179	94,915	46,036

Bureau of the Census.

Imports of coffee into the United States for consumption in 1949 were 59 percent larger in quantity, 468 percent greater in total value, and 258 percent higher in valuation per pound than in the prewar period. Cacao imports into this country for consumption in 1949 showed increases of 6 percent in quantity, 289 percent in total value, and 267 percent in valuation per pound over prewar years. Tea imports into the United States for consumption in 1949 were 7 percent larger in quantity, 140 percent greater in total value, and 124 percent higher in valuation per pound than in the prewar period.

LIBERIA EXPANDING
CACAO PRODUCTION

Approximately 8 million cacao trees have been planted on 12,000 acres in Liberia during the last 4 years, and it is expected that another 10,000 acres will be planted to cacao in 1950, according to the American Embassy in Monrovia. Good prices for cacao beans in recent years have aroused considerable interest in cacao growing among Liberia's small farmers, and it now appears likely that cacao will develop into a major cash crop in Liberia.

At the present time, there are about 1.5 million bearing cacao trees in Liberia ranging in age from 7 to 40 years, with an average yield of about 1 pound of dried cacao beans per tree or 450 pounds per acre. Exports of cacao beans from Liberia amounted to 1.2 million pounds in 1949, compared with 0.8 million in 1948 and 0.4 million in 1947. About 25 percent of the 1949 output of cacao beans was retained in Liberia and used for seed.

Liberia's climate is well suited to cacao cultivation, and there is much suitable land for expansion. The cost of planting cacao in Liberia ranges from 5 to 50 dollars an acre, depending on the method used. The Forastero is the principal variety of cacao grown in Liberia, although a number of farmers now are using the Criollo variety exclusively

for new plantings. To date, Swollen Shoot and Witches' Broom diseases have not been discovered in Liberia. Black Pod Rot and Brown Pod Rot are prevalent in cacao growing in the heavy rain forest belt.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

SHARP REDUCTION IN PERU'S RICE CROP

Rough rice production in Peru from the 1949-50 crop may drop to around 260 million pounds compared with about 320 million pounds a year earlier and more than 450 million 2 years ago, according to the American Embassy, Lima.

Due to shortage of water in the northern commercial rice-producing areas during seedbed growth and early planting time, it was impossible for the normal acreage of rice to be planted. In December and January the water shortage was so acute that much of the rice planted in seedbeds was lost, so that when water was available for transplanting in the fields, adequate seedlings were not available.

Estimates from the Pacanmayo area indicate a reduction of at least 40 percent in the acreage this year as compared with last year. In the Department of Lambayeque, which includes the large rice-producing area near Chiclayo, preliminary estimates vary from 66 to 76 percent of the 1949 acreage and production. The weather was cold during the planting season, irrigation water was late, and the reports during January and February were particularly pessimistic. During March and April, however, the weather was very favorable and the water supply exceptionally good, so that it is probable that additional unknown acreages have been planted, even in the month of April which is considered exceptionally late. It is therefore problematical as to what the harvest will bring.

Based upon the monthly allotments of rice to the consuming centers in 1949, the annual consumption amounted to approximately 240 million pounds of milled rice. It was hoped that the 1949 production of nearly 220 million pounds of milled rice, and the carry-over from the large crop of 1948 would provide enough rice for Peruvian consumption until the 1950 harvest. It seems, however, that supplies are not adequate for this purpose because the Peruvian Government has authorized the import of some 33 million pounds from Ecuador to help meet the demand through August 1. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, April 17, 1950).

During 1949 the Rice Producers Association sold rice to the Government for local distribution, but this year the Government has agreed to purchase the crop directly from the producers. Definite monthly allotments have not been made for 1950 and the quantities may vary somewhat from the allotment authorized in May 1949 of 20 million pounds per month.

Since September 1, 1949, consumers have been required to use both "extra" grade and "corriente" (ordinary) rice. This was done by requiring hotels and restaurants to obtain their supplies directly from the Government depots and to use only grade "extra" rice. During the 1949 season, millers were not permitted to produce more than 25 percent "extra" grade rice. It is probable that imported rice will be of only one grade.

RICE YIELDS LOW IN ARGENTINA

Argentina's rough rice production for 1949-50 may not exceed 254 million pounds compared with about 265 million pounds last year according to the American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Harvesting of the present crop began in March and will extend through May. Trade sources estimate the planted acreage to have been considerably higher than last year, but the serious drought and low stream flow during the growing season resulted in heavy abandonment of rice lands and low yields in several areas.

Argentina has neither imported nor exported any appreciable quantities of rice since 1948.

Rice consumption is considered to be about equivalent to the annual production. However, a member of the Trade has recently estimated that the total disappearance of rice declined about 20 percent in 1949 because of the sharp increases in price compared with 1948. Assuming this to be correct, the carry-over on March 1 this year may have exceeded 50 million pounds, rough rice basis. In any case, fair stocks of rice are still on hand and there appears to be no hurry about buying and milling the new crop. It is believed that very little rice as yet has been delivered by growers who apparently are waiting for higher prices. The average annual per-capita consumption of rice is from 10 to 12 pounds or from one-tenth to one-fifth as much as is consumed in most of the countries of South America.

U.S. RICE EXPORTS DROP IN MARCH

United States rice exports during March of 246,000 bags (100 pounds) showed a decrease compared with 412,000 bags in February. More than one-half went to Cuba, with Venezuela, Canada, and Switzerland next in order of volume.

Exports began to decline in February following above-average trade in the previous months of the current marketing season. Deliveries during the August-March period of the current year reached a peak of 8,030,000 bags, against 6,214,000 bags exported during the corresponding months a year earlier.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
March 1950, with comparisons 1/

(100-pound bags)

Continent and country	August-July		August-March <u>2/</u>		March 21	
	1937-38	1948-49	1948-49	1949-50	1949	1950
	to 1941-42					
	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Switzerland.....	41	49	11	71	3	10
Austria.....	<u>3/</u>	222	85	47	19	0
Greece.....	64	205	80	113	13	<u>4/</u>
Belgium and Luxembourg....	66	75	23	237	22	2
Other Europe....	257	43	39	45	5	3
Total Europe....	428	594	238	513	62	15
Cuba.....	2,750	5,223	4,190	4,326	270	142
Canada.....	194	454	321	381	16	32
Venezuela.....	20	148	9	143	6	33
Br. West Indies:	<u>4/</u>	136	68	115	18	4
Philippines....	<u>4/</u>	1,256	1	18	0	1
China.....	<u>5/</u>	811	149	0	30	0
Indonesia.....	<u>5/</u>	886	886	1,732	89	0
Japan.....	<u>5/</u>	19	24	437	1	<u>4/</u>
Other countries:	190	407	328	365	21	19
Total.....	3,582	9,934	6,214	8,030	513	246

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary.

3/ Not separately classified. 4/ Less than 500 bags. 5/ If any, included in "Other countries".

Bureau of the Census..

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ARGENTINE WOOL PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO RISE IN 1950-51

The 1950-51 Argentine Wool Clip is expected to be slightly larger than the 1949-50 clip, according to the American Embassy, Buenos Aires. Present high prices, and the favorable long range outlook offer an incentive for increasing sheep numbers and wool production.

Labor shortages, and drought in recent years, have hindered such expansion but some increase in numbers apparently occurred following the 1949 lambing, and a further upward trend is expected.

Condition of sheep entering the winter ahead is considered reasonably good, and if the winter is favorable the expected increase should materialize.

Production for the 1949-50 season is now estimated at 420 million pounds, greasy basis. This figure includes the principal October-November 1949 clip, the smaller clip in March and pulled wool.

About 21 percent of Argentina's 1949-50 production consists of coarse wools, while merino output accounts for about 18 percent. The balance is made up of medium and fine crossbred wools, with a predominance of the latter.

THE NETHERLANDS IMPORTS MORE WOOL IN 1949

Imports of raw wool, tops, and waste into the Netherlands in 1949 amounted to approximately 45 million pounds, clean basis, an increase of 28 percent above 1948 but still 14 percent below the 1947 figure.

Exports were negligible and stocks remained approximately constant, which indicates that consumption increased by about the same amount as imports.

Production of wool in the Netherlands is small, amounting to only about 4 million pounds in 1949, somewhat below an earlier estimate.

GUATEMALAN WOOL USED FOR HOME INDUSTRY

None of the wool produced in Guatemala enters foreign trade. Production is small, amounting to only 1.8 million pounds in 1949, this was, however, an increase over a year earlier.

Sheep are raised primarily in the higher plateau and mountain region ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 feet in elevation. Very few large flocks are seen as the industry is not well organized and is operated mostly on a family basis. Selective breeding is not practiced and flock management is poor. Sheep improvement work has, however, recently been undertaken by the Instituto Agropecuario Nacional.

The two commercial textile mills and one new rug factory have found it profitable to import scoured wool and utilize but very little of the domestic supply. This leaves most of the clip for home consumption. The Indians weave blankets and rough home spun materials, many of which are of attractive colors and design.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1950	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		:Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good.....		: 99.05 lbs.	:Tallari	:1/	
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....		: "	: "	:1/	
Karnak, Good.....		: "	: "	:1/	
Karnak, F.G.F.....		: "	: "	:1/	
<u>Bombay</u>		:Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	5-11	: 784 lbs.	:Rupee	:2/ 620.00	: 16.50
Broach Vijay, Fine.....	"	: "	: "	:2/ 690.00	: 18.37
<u>Karachi</u>		:Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine....	5-10	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 74.00	: 27.13
289F Sind, S.G., Fine....	"	: "	: "	: 75.00	: 27.50
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine..	"	: "	: "	: 78.00	: 28.60
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		:Metric ton			
Type B.....	5-11	: 2204.6 lbs.	:Peso	: 4200.00	: 39.43
<u>Lima</u>		:Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	5-10	: 101.4 lbs.	:Sol	: 2/ 365.00	: 24.29
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: 2/ 438.00	: 29.14
<u>Recife</u>		:Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	5-11	: 33.07 lbs.	:Cruzeiro	: 190.00	: 31.26
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: (not available)	
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: "	: 225.00	: 37.02
<u>Sao Paulo</u>					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	: "	: "	: 185.00	: 30.44
<u>Torreon</u>		:Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	:Peso	: 241.00	: 27.49
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>					
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"...	"	:Pound	:Cent	: XXXXX	: 32.37

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

- 1/ Prices omitted from last week's table: Alexandria, May 4, 1950, in tallaris per kantar with U.S. cents per pound in parentheses, Ashmouni, Good, 112.25 (65.07); Ashmouni, F.G.F., not quoted; Karnak, Good, 78.30 (45.39); Karnak, F.G.F., 71.30 (41.33).
- 2/ Nominal.

JUTE NEWS FROM THE INDIAN UNION
AND PAKISTAN--MARCH 1950 1/

The 1949-50 current jute crop estimates of 2.5 to 3 million bales for India and 5 million bales for Pakistan (1,000 to 1,200 million pounds and 2,000 million pounds, respectively) still prevail in Trade circles, according to the American Consulate General at Calcutta, India.

However, the Supplementary Review of the Pakistan crop, which was issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on April 20, showed 1,561,000 acres under jute for the 1949-50 crop year compared with 1,877,000 acres reported in the corresponding Review for 1948-49, a 16.8-percent decrease.

The fiber production of Pakistan is officially reported at 3,333,000 bales of 400 pounds each compared with 5,479,000 bales reported in the Supplementary Review for the 1948-49 crop, a 39.2-percent decrease. The estimate for 1950-51 shows a small increase, however, both in area and yield as reported in the final forecast for the past year.

Total production of jute in Pakistan is forecast at 4.2 million bales (1,680 million pounds) for next year. The current crop prospects are said to have been reduced somewhat in average yield by heavy rains and floods. The quality also is believed to have been affected.

Figures published in the Indian press show February exports from Calcutta at 6,265 bales (2.5 million pounds) of Indian jute making a total of 693,100 bales (277.2 million pounds), including 86,200 bales of Pakistan-grown fiber, during the 8 months from July 1, 1949, through February 1950. This total is nearly 42 percent greater than the quantity exported during the corresponding 8-month period of 1948-49 but is only 20 percent of the total of 2,474,000 bales exported in July-February, 1938-39.

The present official estimate of the disposition of the Pakistan crop indicates about 2 million bales exported to India both for Indian consumption and export, 1.9 million bales exported through the port of Chittagong, and the remainder to be carried over as of July 1, 1950. Some doubt has been expressed about the figure for Chittagong exports since some sources reported that about 200,000 bales are the largest quantity shipped in any month to date.

Total exports of jute from Pakistan to countries other than India, both through Chittagong and by transshipment through India, for the first 8 months of the jute year, July 1949 through February 1950, amounted to 916,757 bales (366.7 million pounds).

1/ A more extensive statement is obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

The United Kingdom was the best customer, purchasing 267,985 bales, followed by France with 130,932 bales, and the United States with 93,873. Other leading customers in order of importance were: Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Czechoslovakia.

For the 8 months ended February 1950 a total of 1,871,505 bales of raw jute was exported to India. It may not exceed 480.0 million pounds in terms of commercially pressed bales, however, according to the Director of Statistics.

According to Capital, 335,000 bales of raw jute were imported into Calcutta and stations of the Indian Jute Mills Association in February 1950, compared with 522,600 in February 1949. Total imports for the 8 months ended February 1950 were 2,739,100 bales, compared with 4,898,900 bales during the corresponding period of 1948-49.

Mills of the Indian Jute Mills Association consumed 432,000 bales (172.8 million pounds) of raw jute during February 1950, compared with 497,000 bales in February 1949 and 500,000 in February 1948, according to statistics of the Association. Consumption during the 8 months ending with February 1950 totaled 3,368,000 bales (1,347.2 million pounds), compared with 4,227,000 bales during the corresponding period of 1948-49.

Trade difficulties following the devaluation of the Indian rupee and nondevaluation of the Pakistani rupee resulted in considerable difficulties for the Indian mills in obtaining sufficient supplies of raw jute. A trade pact which was signed April 21 by India and Pakistan is designed to furnish at least temporary relief in the jute industry. It provides for the release by the trade to the Indian mills of a total of 800,000 bales of low quality Pakistani jute valued, according to early reports, at "rupees 12 crores" or somewhat more than \$25 million at the present rate of exchange for the Indian rupee. The mills will supply Pakistan with manufactured jute goods, but the total quantity involved has not been publicly announced. Only 20,000 long tons (of 2,240 pounds each) of goods, valued at the equivalent of about 6.3 million dollars, are provided for immediate sale by India. All payments are to be made in Indian rupees.

Production of jute goods during February of this year was greater than in January but was 11.5 percent below production last December. A total of 564,500 long tons of goods was manufactured in the 8-month period of July 1949 to February 1950 compared with 708,600 tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year. February production this year amounted to 72,400 long tons, of which 37.7 percent was hessians and 58.0 percent was sackings.

Some jute goods mills were closed entirely and some others part time during part of March because of communal troubles, but no authoritative announcement of the situation has been made. Also a 10-day holiday was declared in April for the mills to take their statutory annual holiday. This also conserved supplies of raw jute at a time when

stocks were relatively low before new crop jute became available. Work was resumed on April 24.

Exports of hessians from Calcutta to the United States totaled 18,456 long tons in the month January 26 to February 25, 1950. Later data are not available. Exports to Argentina during the month ended February 25 totaled 5,956 tons. The following quantities of all hessians passed for export during the calendar month of March: 16,874 long tons to the United States, 2,840 to Canada, and 6,562 to Argentina. The quantity actually exported, however, may vary somewhat either way from the quantity passed for export.

COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY EXPANDING IN CHILE

Chile is now almost self-sufficient in her cotton piece goods requirements. Production has increased from 30 million yards in 1940 to an estimated 60 million yards in 1949. The average prewar consumption of cotton textiles in Chile ran close to 80 million yards. However, this figure has now been reduced through the public's adoption of rayon and light woolen fabrics for dress goods. The production of rayon has also doubled since 1940.

Cotton consumption during the 1948-49 season was estimated at 67,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), an increase of 36 percent over 1947-48. If the spinning mills continue full operation throughout the 1949-50 season, it is estimated raw cotton consumption will rise to around 75,000 or 80,000 bales.

The number of spindles in cotton mills has increased from 45,000 in 1940 to 174,000 in 1949. The greatest increase occurred during 1948 and 1949, although the expansion program was under way as early as the end of 1945. As a result of long delays in the delivery of imported machinery few of the new or expanded units were ready for operation before the middle of 1948.

U.S. COTTON EXPORTS NEARING PREWAR LEVEL

Exports of 706,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight (686,000 running bales) of cotton from the United States in March 1950 were the largest for any month since February 1940. The cumulative total of 3,907,000 bales (3,754,000 running bales for August-March 1949-50 is 804,000 bales or 26 percent above the total for a similar period a year ago. Exports during the current season to countries receiving cotton under the ECA program (including Korea and Formosa but not Japan) totaled 2.5 million bales or 63 percent of total exports. Exports of 534,000 bales to Japan under other types of Government-sponsored programs, including the Revolving Fund, represented nearly 14 percent of the total.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by country of destination;
averages 1934-38 and 1939-43; annual 1947-48 and 1948-49;
August-March 1948-49 and 1949-50

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country	Year beginning August 1				Aug.- Mar.	
	Averages		1947	1948	1948-49	1949-50
	1934-38	1939-43				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	0	1/	3	74	46	26
Belgium- Luxembourg....	147	43	53	152	114	143
Czechoslovakia..	65	0	22	36	31	43
Denmark.....	35	5	3	30	21	23
Finland.....	35	11	27	35	25	3
France.....	589	154	216	676	432	592
Germany.....	579	4	232	504	324	454
Greece.....	2	2	1	12	5	22
Italy.....	430	12	70	652	431	482
Netherlands.....	86	34	35	195	114	175
Norway.....	13	6	3	17	10	6
Poland & Danzig:	224	1	50	95	63	28
Spain.....	101	117	3	70	36	41
Sweden.....	93	53	6	2/	2/	18
Switzerland.....	2	14	3	38	36	35
United Kingdom :	1,097	987	272	781	452	503
Yugoslavia.....	10	7	0	42	31	20
Other Europe...3/	85	146	1	4/ 64	22	5/ 25
Total Europe..:	3,593	1,596	1,000	3,473	2,193	2,639
Canada.....	261	294	138	307	207	182
Chile.....	6/	5	2/	60	41	31
Colombia.....	17	9	1	53	31	33
Cuba.....	7	11	13	8	3	18
India.....	44	18	21	3	3	201
China.....	55	106	303	282	183	88
Japan.....	1,271	216	466	652	357	534
French Indochina	6/	14	4	8	5	6
Korea.....	6/	N.A.	59	34	29	28
Australia.....	5	20	11	0	0	0
Other countries:	43	7	9	7/ 81	8/ 51	9/ 147
Total.....	5,296	2,296	2,025	4,961	3,103	3,907

1/ Included with Germany. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes 39 Portugal,
23 Soviet Union. 4/ Includes 28 Soviet Union, 14 Rumania, 6 Bulgaria,
6 Hungary. 5/ Hungary 19. 6/ If any, included in Other Countries.
7/ Includes 29 Hong Kong, 11 Palestine. 8/ Hong Kong 17. 9/ 93 Hong Kong,
15 Manchuria.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Recent information relating to authorizations for cotton exports under the ECA program before the June 15 deadline indicates that the total for those countries will be between 3.5 and 3.6 million bales. Prospects for further increase in exports to Japan and India this year indicate a probable total of 1.9 to 2.0 million bales for countries not receiving ECA aid. The prospective total export for 1949-50 is thus raised to at least 5.5 million bales of 500 pounds.

Most of the factors responsible for this increasing demand for United States cotton this year have been mentioned in previous reports and now seem to be stronger influences than previously expected. In practically all cotton importing countries mill consumption has continued to rise rather than level off as earlier reports indicate. This may be attributed partly to devaluation and partly to the fact that foreign governments generally have exerted greater effort to facilitate the importation of cotton because of the importance of the textile industries as stabilizing factors in the national economies. Also, food supplies in Europe have improved to such an extent that a much greater percentage of the funds allocated to them have been used to purchase cotton instead of food and other items.

Another factor of equal importance is the growing scarcity of American-type cotton in practically all producing countries outside the United States until new crops arrive later this year.

United States supplies are much larger than a year ago and sufficient to meet all possible demand this year. Prices of competitive foreign growths, except Mexican, have been high throughout the season in relation to United States cotton prices. In Egypt, supplies of Ashmouni and Zagora (the shortest Egyptian varieties) also are becoming scarce. These varieties, due to shortage of dollar exchange in European countries, have been purchased in place of American types on a substantial scale. Dollar scarcity still exists in practically all cotton importing countries but had little retarding effect on the purchase of United States cotton because adequate supplies were not available elsewhere. The new crop in South Brazil is now arriving on the market, however, and the spread in prices has narrowed considerably.

The factors influencing heavy sales of United States cotton for export are likely to continue strong for several months until new crops of competitive growths in foreign countries begin to arrive on the market after July. Estimates of foreign production in 1950-51 are not yet available but increases are planned in practically all producing countries. Early indications are that production will be higher by at least 15 percent in Mexico, 20 to 25 percent in India, about 15 percent in Egypt, and smaller increases in other areas. Increases in foreign production may exceed 1.0 million bales plus a possible increase in China this year but most of it will be in India, Egypt, and Mexico.

COTTON CONSUMPTION
INCREASES IN AUSTRIA 1/

Cotton consumption in Austria has continued to increase and during the first 6 months of the current season (August through January) has been reported at 50,000 bales (480 pounds net). This compares with 34,000 bales consumed in the corresponding period of last season. If the current rate of consumption is maintained, total consumption during the 1949-50 season should be near 100,000 bales, as compared with 79,000 bales last season and 63,000 bales in the 1947-48 season.

However, the Austrian mills are still far under the prewar average when 170,000 bales were consumed annually. The Austrian industry estimates, on the basis of spindles in operating condition, that if its facilities were utilized fully on a one-shift basis, it would require about 130,000 bales of raw cotton and cotton-type rayon staple fiber. During the first 6 months of the current season consumption of both cotton and rayon staple fiber was the equivalent of about 140,000 bales annually.

Production of synthetic staple fiber had been running around 1,250 metric tons (equivalent of 6,250 bales of cotton). However, as the result of a modernization program production was stepped up considerably in November and December of 1949 and reached a record level in February 1950 of 2,080 metric tons or the weight equivalent of about 10,000 bales of cotton.

Although some of the increased production of synthetic staple fiber is needed for exports in exchange for essential chemicals needed by fiber producers, most of the production could be made available to the Austrian mills. Mill consumption of cotton-type synthetic staple fiber amounted to 6,284 metric tons (equivalent of 31,000 bales) during the 1948-49 season, as compared with only 3,424 tons (17,000 bales) consumed by mills in 1947-48. During the first half of the current season mill consumption of cotton-type synthetic staple fiber was reported at 4,137 metric tons (20,000 bales) as compared with 3,089 metric tons (15,000 bales) during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The raw cotton supply situation in Austria has improved considerably due to increased imports under ECA, although imports of non-ECA cotton have declined. From the end of World War II until inception of the ECA program, processing contracts were the major source of raw cotton supplies for the Austrian cotton industry. Under these contracts foreign firms supplied the Austrian mills with raw cotton which returned yarns and woven goods in payment. Austrian mills were thus permitted to retain a portion of the raw cotton for their own use as payment for the processing. After the beginning of the ECA program the importance of these contracts declined and they now are practically nonexistent.

1/ Based on a report by Robert M. Carr, First Secretary of American Legation, Vienna.

The United States has shipped Austria 26,000 bales of cotton from August 1, 1949, to March 31, 1950. ECA has allotted \$11,700,000 for the procurement of cotton in the United States or about 70,000 bales. If these allotments are all taken up, this would call for an export of 44,000 bales from the U.S. between April 1 and June 1950.

L A T E N E W S

(Continued from page 469)

The Mexican Government has announced higher duties on milk in powder or pastilles, weighing with the immediate container up to 5 kilos, to be effective April 25 as follows:

The duty on fatty material up to 3 percent was changed from the old rate of 35 cents to the new rate of 97 cents per legal kilo. Fatty material of more than 3 percent was changed from 77 cents to \$2.08 per legal kilo.